

Chickenpox, County's Leading Disease, Hitting Peak Season

By ROY G. GILBERT, M.D., Los Angeles County Health Officer

More cases of chickenpox were recorded in Los Angeles County last year than any other contagious disease.

The peak months for it in this part of the country seem to run from February to May and, if the number of cases thus far reported in 1955 is any criterion, chances are that it will be just as prevalent this year as it was in 1954.

Chickenpox is an acute, highly contagious disease that occurs in about 70 per cent of the people in metropolitan communities before they reach the age of 15, and at no time of life is the individual immune unless he has already had the infection. Although generally without complications, chickenpox

may give rise to such disorders as encephalitis, impetigo, erysipelas, or involvement of the appendix. So, mild as the disease usually is, it should not be treated as though of little consequence.

Starts with Fever

The disease, caused by one of the ubiquitous viruses, is ushered in rather suddenly two or three weeks after exposure with a mild fever, slight chills, vomiting, and other constitutional symptoms. A skin eruption, which also occurs in the nose, mouth and throat, then makes its appearance within 24 to 28 hours. Should the attack be very mild, however, the eruption is sometimes the first sign of illness.

Since the lesions erupt at different times over a period of

three to four days or a little longer, the various stages of the out cropping may be evident on the same area of skin at the same time. Within a few hours, the initial pink or reddish spots become solid little elevations that change into vesicles (blister-like sacs) filled with clear fluid. After a couple of days these vesicles dry up to form crusts or scabs which fall off in a week or less without leaving scars.

Contagious Disease

Chickenpox is contagious 24 hours before the rash appears and remains so for about six days. Most authorities feel that after the lesions are crusted the period of communicability is over.

As in so many other virus diseases, chickenpox is spread by nose and throat secretions and by articles contaminated by the sick person. It may also be spread by discharges from the skin lesions which carry the virus.

There is no specific treatment for the disease and no vaccine

that will prevent it. Scratching of the lesions should be inhibited as it may cause a secondary infection and result in scars. For this reason, small children may require elbow splints so that the crusts will not be removed prematurely. Itching is sometimes relieved by bathing the skin with water in which baking soda is dissolved or by the use of any other soothing lotion prescribed by the doctor.

Children Kept from School

Children are excluded from school during the period of contagion and should be isolated from other members of the household who have not had the disease. No restriction (quarantine) is placed on the comings and goings of the family.

While recovery from chickenpox is generally uneventful, a non-immune individual should never be exposed to it because of the possibility of complications which may turn a mild illness into one that is serious.

A leaflet on chickenpox and one on the care of contagious diseases in the home will be mailed to anyone who sends a card of request to the Los Angeles County Health Department, 241 No. Figueroa, Los Angeles 12.

Vandals Hit Garage

Vandals cut open cement sacks and strewed the contents, as well as sand and plaster all over his garage, Albert Levitt, of 441 Via Linda Vista, reported to Torrance Police Friday.

Homeowners Seek Cash For New Street Lights

Crenshaw Gardens Homeowners will be contacted soon about ornamental street lighting for homes on 177th, 178th, and 179th Sts., committee-man Charles Hogan said Monday.

Approved at a recent Homeowners meeting, the funds are being collected by members of a committee.

Public Notices

TORRANCE HERALD—125 NOTICE INVITING BIDS ON SCHOOL BUSES

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of the Torrance Unified School District, Los Angeles County, will receive bids until 10:00 A.M., April 22, 1955, at the office of the Assistant Superintendent-Business of said School District, 2385 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance, California, for the purchase (and/or lease) of two complete School Buses to meet or exceed specifications on file in the Business Office. Equipment offered shall meet all requirements of the State Board of Education. Regulations governing Pupil Transportation. Each bid must be sealed.

Each bid aggregating \$1,000.00 or over must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or bid bond in not less than five per cent (5%) of the aggregate amount of the bid. The owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and waive any irregularities in any bid, and to determine the lowest responsible bid. No bidder may withdraw his check or bid bond for a period of thirty (30) days after the date set for the opening thereof.

DATED: Torrance, California April 5, 1955.
TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
By Emmett W. Ingram
The Asst. Supt.-Business
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of April, 1955.
WALTER C. BRADFORD
Notary Public
(SEAL)
T-April 7, 14, 1955

Lawnmower Stolen

A lawnmower valued at \$12 was taken from his tool shed sometime Saturday, Ray Rice, of 1016 Acacia Ave., told Torrance Police.

Public Notices

TORRANCE HERALD—125 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Torrance Planning Commission on April 20, 1955 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Torrance, on the following matter: CASE NO. 342; Petition of Lorna Woodburn, Timbora, owner, for a Variance and Conditional Permit to rezone a grocery store building front and add 15 feet to same to be used partially for storage room on the easterly 52 feet of Lots 9 and 10, Block 54, Torrance Tract, situated at 1521 Madrid Avenue, between Southern Street and Edwinton Street in Land Use Zone R-3 (Multiple Family Residence).

CASE NO. 343; Petition of Wallace R. Franklin, owner, for a Variance and Conditional Permit to erect and operate a radio television sales and service at 2066 W. Carson, between Harting Street and Edwinton Street, 22, Torrance Tract.

All persons interested in the above matters are requested to be present at the hearing or to submit their written approval or disapproval to the Planning Commission, City Hall, Torrance.

TORRANCE PLANNING COMMISSION

Walter C. Bradford, Secretary
T-April 7, 1955

TORRANCE HERALD—124 NOTICE INVITING BIDS ON ACCOUNTING MACHINE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of the Torrance Unified School District, Los Angeles County, will receive bids until 10:00 A.M., April 22, 1955, at the office of the Assistant Superintendent-Business of said School District, 2385 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance, California, for the purchase of one Accounting Machine as per specifications on file in the Business Office. Each bid must be sealed.

Each bid aggregating \$1,000.00 or over must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or bid bond in not less than five per cent (5%) of the aggregate amount of the bid. The owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and waive any irregularities in any bid, and to determine the lowest responsible bid. No bidder may withdraw his check or bid bond for a period of thirty (30) days after the date set for the opening thereof.

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